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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 003463

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STATE FOR E, EB, SA AND EUR/WE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/20/2015

TAGS: [EAID](#) [ECON](#) [EFIN](#) [ETRD](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [AF](#) [FR](#)

SUBJECT: G-8: FRENCH QUESTIONS ON REGIONAL DIALOGUE FOR AFGHANISTAN

REF: STATE 91032

Classified By: ECON Kenneth Merten as CONFIDENTIAL for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[11](#). (U) This contains a request for guidance, see paragraph 5.

[12](#). (C) Per ref request, Econ Chief discussed reftel talking points with Foreign Ministry G-8 Officer, Cyril Pierre. Pierre, was unaware of any prior discussion of such a regional dialogue on Afghanistan in the broader discussions in the framework of the G-8. He noted that the goals as noted reftel were laudable and that France would probably have little difficulty in supporting the overall thrust of the initiative. However, he said he would have to discuss the issue with his colleagues in the MFA's equivalent of the regional bureau before he could pronounce on that definitively.

[13](#). (C) Pierre posed several questions the answers to which, he suggested, would help shape the GOF response. He asked whether we were convinced that the G-8 was the best forum in which to support such a dialogue and whether we had explored other possibilities? He opined that it was probably too late to include this in the preparations for the summit and noted that the British presidency and G-8 countries had already agreed to limit the focus to two other major issues; did we envision adding this item as a third? He asked at what level did we envision this being discussed? He offered that it would more than likely be prepared by the PolDirs and agreed upon at the Foreign Ministers' level. Pierre was unaware of UK officials having contacted the GOF reporting on Foreign Secretary Straw's "receptivness" to Ambassador Khalizad's

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outline of the Dialogue.

[14](#). (U) Poloff also presented reftel points to the MFA DAS-equivalent for South Asia, Anne Grillo-Nebout, and the Afghanistan Desk Officer Cyril Gerardon. Geardon hoped to get back to us with a more detailed response during the week of 22 May.

[15](#). (U) Request for guidance: Embassy would appreciate guidance to respond to the questions Pierre posed in paragraph 3.
WOLFF